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HONDURAS

THE NEW CLOUTIERE



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HONDURAS: THE NEW ELDORADO

¶ SOMETHING of the wonderful wealth, vast natural resources and unequaled opportunities of the sunny Southern Republic of Honduras. An authoritative handbook on its romantic history, marvelous resources and brilliant prospects.



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NEW ELDORADO, is limited to
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Foreword

So long as the mineral resources of our country remained unexploited, the cry of the seeker after wealth and opportunity was ever "Westward Ho!"

But many years have now elapsed since the advance-guard of civilization swept Westward to the Rockies, past the great Continental Divide and on to the shores of the blue Pacific.

Here nature set her impassable boundary to Western enterprise. The vast natural resources of this country have now been prospected; the areas which contain the same, have been ascertained and well defined, and the opportunities which once existed for investment in rich virgin territory has become well nigh exhausted.

The frozen North has been entered, and its profitable domains are now in the hands of a few great corporations and capitalists.

If, therefore, the investor who seeks stability coupled with large returns, looks to the West, or to the North, he finds them barren of real opportunity.

But, turn your eyes to the South—to that vast country exceeding in territorial domain the United States of America; exceeding in natural wealth, not only this country, but all of the British possessions to the north of us; exceeding in fields for profitable investment, Africa, Asia, Europe and Australasia combined.

The world has moved rapidly in the last ten years, but nowhere else has the stride of progress been swifter than in the Central American Republics.

Much has been due to the initiative America has taken in the building of the Panama Canal; but if Americans have themselves become educated to the advantages and opportunities in the sunny Republics to the south of us, with their illimitable mineral resources, sufficiency of labor and mild climate, these Republics have also responded to the modern progressive American spirit.

Where once reigned chaos and political disorder, to-day we find stability, progress and American enterprise.

Latin-America has awakened from its long lethargy. The slumber of centuries has been broken by the tocsin of Modern Industry.

Mile after mile of railroad track is being laid; thousands of Americans have entered these enormously profitable fields and stability, changed sanitary conditions and prosperity are in evidence everywhere.

Now Honduras, the Golder Land, richer, in fact, than was ever the fabled Eldorado, is being exploited by American energy and American capital.

No country on the face of the entire globe—and this statement is based upon actual facts—contains so great an extent of immensely valuable mineral territory—is so marvellously rich in the deposits of precious metals—and offers so great returns upon such a small expenditure of capital, as will be found in the Republic of Honduras.

Germany, England, France, and Holland are pouring their surplus wealth into this country for profitable investment.

America's shrewdest financiers—keen to scent investment opportunities, have joined hands with capitalists of other countries and are placing at the disposal of Honduras, millions of dollars to be returned to them many thousandfold.

It is to furnish the man who desires to largely increase his means, upon a comparatively small investment in the most profitable investment field today open, this book is written.

It is also the purpose of this book to put into the reader's hands reliable statistics in reference to the enormously profitable industry of Gold and Copper Mining to enable you to arrive at a just appreciation of the true basis of wealth, upon which not only the greatest fortunes of this country are founded, but upon which hundreds of thousands of people are drawing incomes that enable them to dwell in comfort and luxury.

The facts speak for themselves. They need no comment.

Metal Mining; The Main Factor in Wealth Building

There is no field of human endeavor which offers larger returns upon capital invested, in a shorter time, than mining.

These three statements must be understood as standing together.

Mining must necessarily make a larger return to the investor, than a commercial industry.

The life of a mine is limited, and the net yield must not only pay interest upon the principal; but must also return the principal itself.

This is called amortization; which term is merely a brief way to express the idea that the principal invested in an enterprise must be returned.

Therefore, when a mine is paying—we will say 20 per cent a year—10 per cent of that for the first ten years must be counted on to replace principal. All over that is “velvet.”

V. A. Wilbur, Cashier of the Miners & Citizen's Bank of Yellville, Ark., in addressing the Arkansas Bankers' Convention, at Little Rock, said:

“The cloud of mystery that has always hung over the mining industry coupled with the abuses to which it has, in the past, been subjected by unprincipled curb operators places its exponent under suspicion, whenever he approaches a conservative banker. However, I trust that I shall not startle you when I state, *that every banker in the State of Arkansas*—from the officers of the Miners & Citizens' Bank, up in Marion County, down to the humblest bank president in Little Rock—is interested in mining. The word mine is defined by Webster as a verb, meaning to “dig.”

Mining is digging—not stock jobbing. Yet successful mining looks not only to creating a steady source of revenue, but to the increase in the actual market price of the stock itself.

This is what makes the speculative element—the strong probability—the almost certainty—that the stock you buy this year for a thousand dollars, you can sell next year for two thousand, or five thousand dollars.

Mining is one of the greatest sources of wealth of which our country boasts, and, as was remarked by the *New York Commercial*, “It is believed by conservative observers to be rather more free from financial risk than most of the approved lines of trade upon our business streets.”

Gold: The Basis of National and Industrial Prosperity

It is a far cry from “the land of Havilah, where there is Gold, and the Gold of that land is good,” the first land commended in the Bible, and which is commended for its Gold—to Honduras; The New Eldorado.

The voyage of the Argonauts was a Grecian rush to new gold fields; the Golden Fleece, but wooly sheep's hide still used by the natives in the tropics to collect Gold; the Rhine Gold legions relate to the same subject.

Gold has been the object of man's first search, the means of his civilization, and the inspiration of his grandest poetry and legends, his education, cultivation and the means by which he has been enabled to enter into larger fields of usefulness to others and employment for himself.

The search has never really ended. If not secured by one people from mines, it was got from another by conquest. As the tide of the Gold supply has ebbed and flowed, so has man's prosperity ebbed and flowed.

At present the tide is coming in. Within limits we can predict its arrival and its height. It is, indeed, a flood tide.

And we predict the flood will come from Honduras!

The Golden Harvest

For those keen minds with whom Gold is a subject of study, there is much interesting information in a series of tables recently published by the Bureau of Statistics of the Treasury Department.

According to the figures presented, the world's stock of Gold has increased 50 per cent in the last ten years and doubled in the last twenty-five.

The total output of the metal since the discovery of America by Columbus is placed at Thirteen Billions of Dollars.

The Gold coin of the World is estimated at \$7,000,000,000.

The hoarding of Gold is not practiced alone by men as individuals. The habit is one in which Nations indulge and at times as greedily as by the most grasping miser. The tables quoted give the following as the Gold holdings of the leading nations:

United States	\$1,613,000,000
Germany	1,044,000,000
France	926,000,000
Russia	917,000,000
United Kingdom	565,000,000
Austria-Hungary	303,000,000
Italy	258,000,000
Australia	158,000,000
Egypt	140,000,000
Argentina	140,000,000
Turkey	132,000,000
India	113,000,000
Japan	96,000,000
Canada	66,000,000
Brazil	51,000,000

These statistics show that the United States has a greater supply of available Gold than any other nation.

Where has this Gold come from? Not from our borders alone. Much has been brought in from American enterprises to the South of us.

Of the \$13,000,000,000 of Gold dug from the earth since the landing of Columbus, \$2,000,000,000 have disappeared and are unaccounted for. Where has it gone? Some of it is certainly hidden away in old stockings and kettles; some has gone to the bottom of the sea in lost ships, and some, perhaps, lies buried where it was placed by the pirates of romance.

We frequently hear of the fabulous hoardings of the Gold-hungry nobles of India, and it is quite possible that a large sum of the World's missing treasure is secreted in that land of misery and mystery. But taking the most liberal estimates as to the amounts thus withdrawn from the World's product, the total still falls far short of the \$2,000,000,000 reported as missing.

A Digression

"The supply of Gold has increased 50 per cent in the last ten years," says the Bureau of Statistics. Mark that and ponder it well.

Truly a man who has not doubled *his* means has not kept pace with our National prosperity.

In homely terms it is "up to him" to find the reason why.

Lack of confidence in self; lack of that quality the successful man calls "nerve"; want of discernment

to distinguish real opportunity from the sham article; inability to properly discriminate; these are prominent factors that make up individual *unprosperity*.

Opportunity knocks at every man's door, but woe to the man who will not heed it!

The man who is always suspicious—the man who is always skeptical—the man who never sees good faith in anyone, or anything—who knocked out once, stays knocked out—who deceived once, looks upon all men as rogues—becomes subject to the worst of all deception—the deception of the self deceiver.

Apply to a mining investment those plain, ordinary principles of common sense you exercise in your every day affairs.

All capital for growing enterprises *must* come from the public in one channel or another.

Men with large capital naturally wish to control the destinies of enterprises in which they invest.

But put yourself in the place of men who are not large capitalists; but are and have been successful and who desire to expand a business, which has demonstrated for years its ability to return largely upon money, brains and energy put into it—would you wish to part with the control of *your* business?

No! You would do like everyone else does—you would place your matter squarely, honestly, truthfully before the public and say:

"This is what I have done in the past—this is what I *absolutely know* I can do in the future," and you would interest public capital by proving down to the ground the stability of your business, the larger possibilities for you and those associated in the enterprise.

Corporations seek additional capital not because they are philanthropists, but from a cold business standpoint. They need you—but *you need them more!* Without the opportunity to invest there is not the opportunity to make money.

And that need of a legitimate corporation makes the opportunity of the investor.

"Opportunity knocks at every man's door"—hackneyed, abused, misused as this phrase has been, it nevertheless is true—absolutely and unqualifiedly true—because it is based upon an everlasting principle.

Truly we may ask, not why men invest in mining stock—but how can they help it?

Avenues of Wealth

New fields for investment are continually being opened up; new opportunities created.

There are many forms of investment.

No man wants to *invest* in a prospect of any kind—whether it be a prospective bank, or a prospective mine. That is never an investment—that is speculation. Every man who puts his money into such a prospect, be the nature of the business what it may, must be prepared to take a larger percentage of chances.

There is, however, an intermediate state where an *investment* can be made, which has a known and well ascertained *speculative* value. Let us take a concrete example—not of a mine, but of a Trust Company.

In one year the Union Trust Company of Pittsburg, Pa., earned 302 per cent. In one year the Chemical National Bank paid 150 per cent. The Fifth Avenue Bank of New York City paid 100 per cent.

One hundred and twenty-four banks and trust companies in five of our cities alone are paying from 10 per cent to 100 per cent annually on the par value of their stock. Not one of them is paying less than 10 per cent!

The man who bought in any of these stocks when the enterprises were in a prospective stage was not an investor, but a speculator.

The man who buys in all these stocks now, is not a speculator, but an investor.

For a man who wants safety in his investments and speculative profits as well, there is only one form

in the known world, and that is where an enterprise has demonstrated for years by absolute test its ability to make returns with sufficient money invested.

Such an investor is not only sure of a fair return of interest upon the money invested, in a short time, but is reasonably assured of a much higher price for his stock when the rate of interest upon his investment increases.

This is a fact which is called to the attention of every thinking man, and when all the facts are stated in connection with it, he is able to form an intelligent and correct conclusion.

The Gold Production of the World

Estimate the yield of Gold at 21,000,000 lbs., which it is in round numbers, and all the Gold in the world might, if melted into ingots, be contained in a cellar twenty-four feet square and sixteen feet high.

It is said that all the boasted wealth already obtained from California and Australia would go into an iron safe nine feet square and nine feet high—so small is the cube of yellow metal that has set population on the march and aroused the whole world to wonder.

Gold is an aristocrat. It doesn't need to work. So long as people can survey the steel vaults of the Banks of England, France, Germany, Italy, Russia, Japan, the United States Treasury, and the rest of the depositories and know the Gold is there, they are happy and content. It's a sort of mind cure. Imagine piling up all the coal in a dozen big heaps, letting nobody carry any of it away, and expecting the community to keep warm by reason of knowing it's there, and you will have a parallel which Gold bears to commerce.

The discoveries of Columbus might have amounted to as little as did the earlier adventures of the Norsemen in the American hemisphere, but for the fact that the early Spanish explorers found Gold in Mexico, Honduras and Peru. That was what induced the wanderlust in the mediaeval Europeans and led them to seek out and explore and at length to colonize the new lands of the West.

The world's Gold mines produced in 1908 at the rate of approximately \$425,000,000 per annum.

Prior to 1700 the world's production averaged \$5,000,000; from 1700 to 1750 it averaged \$10,000,000 a year; from 1750 to 1850 it averaged \$12,000,000. With the discovery of Gold in the United States in 1849 and a little later in Australia, the world's production increased ten-fold, the annual output of Gold mines averaging \$100,000,000 per annum from 1850 to 1890.

From that time forward the growth was still more rapid, exceeding \$300,000,000 in 1899.

As a result of the rapid growth in Gold production in recent years, the Gold output of the world's mines during the 10 years ending in 1908 aggregates \$3,400,000,000, while the product of the preceding 15 years aggregated \$2,400,000,000, making a total of nearly \$6,000,000,000 worth of Gold produced in the last 25 years.

In twenty-five years the world's product of Gold has increased about 425 per cent. That is, it has grown from \$95,392,000 in 1883 to \$404,000,000 in 1907. This latter figure is furnished by Frank A. Leach, Director of the Mint.

In twelve short years the increase is over 100 per cent.

In 1908 product was probably close to the \$425,000,000 mark, and by the last year of this decade of the new century, we shall see a round half billion in value of gold added to the world's stock.

Profits in Gold Stocks

What have been the returns to holders of Gold stocks?

Let us take those whose mines are situated south of the United States.

We will confine ourselves to Latin-America.

Thirty-seven companies operating in Latin-America have already paid shareholders in dividends \$58,307,432. They returned 66 per cent on their outstanding capitalization.

Where the companies operate gold, silver and lead properties, they have to their credit in dividend disbursements \$42,614,388, which is equivalent to a return of 85 per cent upon their issued capitalization.

Three copper properties have returned 38 per cent on issued capitalization.

These are, of course, only a portion, and a very small portion, of the returns on Latin-American mines. There are a great many properties in Latin-America paying tremendous dividends which are close corporations and which do not publish returns.

Compare this with a return made to railroads. This calculation was made a short time ago.

Railroads

	Capitalization	Dividends Paid
		Since 1901
Pennsylvania	\$400,000,000	\$93,756,422
New York Central	250,000,000	40,504,668
Chicago Great Western	119,000,000	81,140,028
Erie	197,000,000	10,959,840
Santa Fe	283,486,000	56,172,573
Union Pacific	396,178,700	63,659,286
Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul	282,838,300	44,698,871
Chesapeake and Ohio	62,790,700	3,699,612
Southern Railway	180,000,000	17,400,000
Reading	140,000,000	16,240,000
Rock Island	150,000,000	21,324,294
Wabash	200,000,000	735,000
Frisco	100,000,000	4,613,484
Southern Pacific	300,000,000	10,485,556
Baltimore and Ohio	212,750,000	40,724,334
Total	\$3,274,043,700	\$506,012,608

Fifteen per cent of dividends of Capitalization, where Latin-American Gold, Silver and Lead Properties have paid 85 per cent.

Par Value and Selling Price

Here is the par value of some Latin-American stocks, and their market value at various times when sales were made:

Name of Mine	Par Value	Market Value
Blanca y An.	\$200.00	\$430.00
El Barreno Avrada	10.00	120.00
El Barreno Avadoro	10.00	120.00
Dos Estrellas	100.00	7,300.00
Fraternal	10.00	620.00

Green Con.	10.00	30.62
Guadalupe, F. y Eno	Not known	200.00
Lustre	10.00	36.00
Lux de Borda Avida	10.00	20.00
Lux de Bordia Aviadora	10.00	24.00
Maravillas y San Eugenio	50.00	210.00
Naica	100.00	15,000.00
Natividad Aviadora	30.00	650.00
Natividad Aviadas	30.00	650.00
Novias de Ba Jan	20.00	850.00
Penoles	100.00	1,400.00
Real del Monte	Not known	830.00
Providencia, S. J.	15.00	235.00
San Pablo	50.00	115.00
San Rafael	50.00	2,375.00
San Rafael Aviada	50.00	760.00
Sta. Maria de Gaud	2.00	103.00
Soledad	40.00	1,075.00
Supressa	40.00	490.00
Esperanza	5.00	2,400.00
El Oro	5.00	1,200.00
Grand Central	5.00	75.00
Carmen (Pachuca)	25.00	320.00
Carmen Guanajuanto	5.00	15.00
Candelaria de Pinos	1.00	120.00
Union Mill	180.00	550.00
Victoria y An.	Unknown	125.00
Esta Maria la Paz	Unknown	235.00
Maravillas, el Lobo	50.00	180.00
Amistad y Cordia	50.00	240.00

It must be borne in mind that such stocks are often so closely held, so seldom change hands that it is difficult to get their records.

These are reliable and as complete as possible.

Some Latin-American Profit Payers

An interesting statement showing the growth in value of Latin-American mines was issued not long ago by a New York statistician. This table includes the following paying companies:

Norias de Bijan Gold Mining Company's stock sells at \$425 a share; its par value is \$10. ~~It~~ One hundred shares purchased for \$1,000 are worth \$42,500.

The Carmen Gold and Silver Mining Company's stock is \$25 par, and it sells for \$120; ~~It~~ \$1,000 invested at par is now worth \$4,800 and has received \$3,786.

Dos Estrellas Gold and Silver Mining Company's stock is \$50 par; ~~It~~ \$1,000 purchased 20 shares, and is now worth \$70,000. The stock is selling for \$3,500 a share, and has received in dividends \$7,640.

El Barreno Gold and Silver Mining Company's stock is \$5 par, and now sells for \$62.50 a share; ~~It~~ a thousand dollars invested in this company is now worth \$12,400, and has received \$5,800 in dividends.

The Fraternal Silver Mining Company's stock is \$5 par, and now sells for \$310 a share; ~~It~~ a thousand dollars invested is now worth \$62,000, and has received in dividends \$17,756.

Naica Mining Company's stock is \$300 par, ~~It~~ three shares of this company bought at par for \$900 are worth \$21,000 for the stock sells at \$7,000 a share; the Naica Company pays dividends, but we have no record of the amount that has been paid.

Penoles Gold and Silver Mining Company; stock of this company is \$25 par; ~~if~~ a thousand dollars invested at par is now worth \$140,000 and has received in dividends \$1,051,000.

Providencia, S. J. De Luz Company's stock is \$15 par; ~~if~~ \$1,000 purchased 66 shares; the shares sell for \$122.50; that amount of money invested is now worth \$8,085, and has received in dividends \$1,980.

San Rafael Gold and Silver Company's stock sells at \$1,187 a share; the stock is \$25 par; ~~if~~ \$1,000 invested in this company at par is worth over \$45,000, and has received in dividends \$8,850.

Soledad Silver and Lead Mining Company's stock is \$20 par and sells for \$528; ~~if~~ \$1,000 invested at par is now worth \$26,400, and has received in dividends \$22,400.

Will an investment of \$1,000 in a Latin-American mine pay?

The above list answers that question.

The investor who can buy stock in a going, shipping, Latin-American mine at the par value of its stock is indeed a favored individual. And it can only be gotten when such a company is in need of large improvements upon which it can make still larger returns.

~~if~~ One hundred dollars invested in the San Carlos Mine, of Minillas, Zacatecas, Mexico, three years ago, grew \$4,200. The mine has paid \$224,079 in dividends.

~~if~~ One hundred dollars invested in the Santa Maria de Guadalupe y Anexas, of Minillas, Zacatecas, Mexico, four years ago, grew to \$46,000. The mine has paid \$377,918 in dividends.

Figure out what a \$1,000 investment would have done in these mines—and what \$10,000 would have done—has done in many cases, as a matter of fact.

More Latin-American Returns for Investors

Here is a list of Dividends and Profits to Investors that almost stagger us. It is a list printed in the *Mining World*. It is absolutely reliable and authentic.

	Authorized Capital Stock	Number of Shares Issued		Par Value	Total to Date
Amistad y Concordia	\$ 480,000	\$ 9,600	\$50	\$ 429,358	
Amparo	3,000,000	2,520,000	1	186,000	
Bartolome de Medina Mill	50,000	2,000	25	103,591	
Batopilas	9,000,000	446,268	20	55,870	
Dolores	2,000,000	400,000	5	391,300	
Dos Estrellas (El Oro)	150,000	300,000	0.50	3,780,000	
El Oro	5,750,000	1,147,500	5	5,333,260	
Esperanza	2,275,000	450,000	5	10,207,500	
Fraternal	5,000	1,000	5	206,288	
Greene Gold-Silver	3,000,000	300,000	10	194,871	
Greene Con.	10,000,000	864,000	10	6,137,800	
Greene Con.	5,000,000	450,000	10	300,000	
Guanajuato Con.	3,000,000	540,000	5	600,000	
Guanajuato Dev.	1,000,000	10,000	100	124,356	
Guggenheim Exploration	22,000,000	170,000	100	7,385,277	
Hinds Con.	5,000,000	5,000,000	1	88,000	
Las Cabrillas	10,400	1,040	1,000	482,800	
Mexican	1,250,000	12,500	100	787,500	
Mexico Con.	2,500,000	240,000	10	660,000	
Mexican Mill & Trans.	2,000,000	12,500	100	65,858	
Mexico Mines of El Oro	900,000	180,000	5	438,300	
Minas Pedrazzini	1,000,000	1,000,000	1	248,907	

Mitchell	8,000,000	500,000	10	92,318
Montezuma	500,000	5,000	100	297,500
Montezuma M. & Sm.	500,000	500,000	1	80,000
Penoles	125,000	2,500	50	4,366,685
Peregrina	1,000,000	10,000	100	223,656
Pinguico	2,000,000	20,000	100	240,000
Providencia	90,000	6,000	15	963,360
San Carlos	500,000	500,000	1	40,000
Securities Corporation	200,000	2,000	100	42,000
San Francisco Mill	150,000	6,000	25	445,086
San Rafael	60,000	2,400	25	3,179,938
Soledad	19,200	960	20	773,471
Sorpresa	19,200	19,200	20	347,438
Sta. Gert. y Guadalupe	3,000,000	60,000	3,960,000
Sta. Maria del Paz	9,600 sh.	9,000	2,436,659
Teziutlan	10,000,000	8,000	100	1,955,000
Union Mill	150,000	10,000	50	656,386

About forty years ago Julia A. Munson made a deposit of \$150 in the National Savings Bank of New Haven, Conn. At her death, no one knew she had this deposit, and it was only recently one of the bank employees learned of this dormant account. Relatives were informed of its existence. Today that deposit with accrued interest amounts to \$850.

It has taken 40 years for that \$150 to grow to \$850!

We know of actual cases where \$1 invested in mining enterprises in 18 years was worth from \$890 to \$2,400.

We know of five mines where this was done.

Can these facts be for an instant doubted when it is remembered that the Silver mines of Zacatas have yielded about \$1,000,000,000. The Santa Eulalia have yielded \$400,000,000. Valenciana has paid royalty on more than \$1,000,000,000, and the Rosario Mine is estimated to have an output of \$75,000,000?

Copper: Its Value and Economy in Modern Industrial Life

No permanent mining industry is established, and no substantial commercial development is secured until the mining of the base metals and of the bulky materials, especially coal, is begun.

Base metal mining is distinguished by the growth of permanent towns, often cities, and an enduring population. This has been the history of the United States—it is becoming the history of Honduras—it will be the history of South America.

Copper: A Base Metal

The history of copper is lost in the mists of antiquity. It was known to the ancients thousands of years before the discovery of iron. It was one of the six metals mentioned in the Old Testament—and Tubal Cain was the first known artificer of iron and brass.

Historical discoveries recently made in Egypt have shown that the Egyptian had a knowledge of copper so early as 7,000 B. C. and at a date considerably more remote.

By 5,500 B. C. copper was in general use in Egypt.

Copper mines were first worked on Mount Ida and Asia Minor and on Mount Sinai. These latter mines must have been worked for many thousands of years, because we know that they were in operation as late as 1,300 B. C.

Copper with its alloys entered not only at a very early date into the ornamental uses of the people of antiquity, but into their daily economy.

Bronze was used for making tools and weapons and for inscriptions antedating the great pyramids. The oldest piece of bronze to which we can establish a date is a knob from the scepter of Peti, the First, Pharaoh of Egypt, around the year 3,000 B. C. Surely in the days of Pharaoh, Copper was King!

Copper was used in those dim lit times for statues, money, armor and farm implements, household utensils, nails, locks, butts, hardware, for chariots and boats, for jewelry and general decorative purposes. And while the Pharaohs were mining copper on Sinai at "Ur of the Chaldees," copper was being gathered from Northern Arabia.

The Greeks were familiar with its use from their earliest known history. The Phoenicians mined copper at Cypress and later brought it from Iberia and still later from Cornwall.

Spain has been furnishing copper to the old world for nearly—or quite—3,000 years, and remains one of the principal sources of the world's supply.

Hoary with age—with a wealth production so fabulous no man can hazard a guess—with a history that runs back a thousand years before the Christian Era—is a copper mine—the Rio Tinto of Spain, now belonging to the Rothschilds.

Think of a mine that has produced for over 3,000 years—that had been turning out wealth for a thousand years when Julius Ceasar was subduing the Gaul—when Antony and Cleopatra were floating down the Nile—when Augustus Caesar was establishing the Great Roman Empire!

This mine has endured all the changes of time and fortune—the vicissitudes of the human race, and to-day with thirty centuries back of it, it one of the world's great copper producers.

The Rio Tinto may well be called Mother of all Mines.

The Rennelsburg's Mines in Germany were opened about 933 and have been producers for nearly a thousand years.

The Mansfield of Saxony, Germany, was opened up in the year 1199 and became immensely profitable.

Yet after all these years it is now producing an increase of ten fold.

In 1228 the mines of Falun, Sweeden, were opened up and are still producing.

In 1799 Norway was producing 480 tons of fine copper and the copper mines of Norway are producing to-day.

Copper is a sturdy King among metals to-day. As the age of steel followed the age of iron, so the succeeding industrial epoch is to be the age of Electricity, whose foundation is copper. Already this metal adds five hundred million dollars each year to the wealth of the world, and its reign is still in its sturdy youth.

The Uses of Copper in the World's Economy

Few people realize the many new uses to which copper is being put.

The opinion seems to be general that all of our copper goes into electrical apparatus. The fact of the matter is that the favorable showing in the matter of consumption, over the last several years, has

been the result of the enormous amount of copper going into buildings, the arts, etc. Copper for roofing purposes is becoming more and more general. Take the new buildings going up, the amount of copper used is enormous. Copper is being substituted for sheet iron and steel for protecting wood work. I could name a thousand different articles now made from copper that several years ago were made from steel, wood, etc.

This country is to-day consuming close to 600,000,000 pounds of copper a year, or not far below normal consumption. We all know that the electrical companies have not been active. They have been consuming about 50 per cent of the normal amount of copper used by them. The good showing in the matter of consumption in a depressed period, therefore, must be due to sources of consumption other than electricity. It is my belief that when the railroads and other corporations become active in construction work, there will be a scramble for copper. Next year the stocks on hand in this country, as well as Europe, should be wiped out.

Yet to electricity copper owes its greater demand.

Electricity is not the power of to-morrow—it is the power of to-day. It will continue to grow.

Electrical engineering trades of to-day, with \$3,000,000,000 of capital and an annual output of power apparatus valued at \$275,000,000, stares us in the face.

These are figures that will not down.

Periods of depression may come—months of financial unrest—even panics—but nothing can stay the march of progress.

The Bell telephone wire, overhead and underground, if strung out into one length of copper wire, would reach thirty-seven times as far as the moon, or 360 times around the earth. And the telephone lines are being extended at an amazing rate. They have doubled in the last four years. Last year the wiring increased from 7,500,000 miles to 8,600,000 miles; it has since grown beyond 9,000,000 miles. The amount of copper in Bell lines increased from 320,000,000 pounds in 1905, to 375,000,000 pounds in 1906, to 430,000,000 pounds in 1907, and now it is close to half a billion—a million pounds of new wire a week, more than all the mines of the country produced when Anaconda was opened up, thirty years ago, more than the whole world produced sixty years ago. The independent telephone lines also consume many millions of pounds of copper. For instruments and switchboards, millions of pounds more copper are used by the telephone lines. One manufacturing company, controlled by the Bell lines, uses 80,000,000 pounds of copper a year making wire and instruments. The companies making telephones for the independent lines use many millions more. 15,000,000 miles of copper wire are to-day in use.

For twenty odd years we have been constructing trolley roads, and the wires that carry the electric power over nearly 50,000 miles of track contain more than 100,000,000 pounds of copper. Now, there is a mile of electric railway for every five miles of steam road, but before many years, in the opinion of electrical engineers, the proportion will be reversed. A million miles of trolley in this country is no wild dream. In the meantime many steam locomotives will be sent to the scrap heap. We have already seen the beginning of this revolution in the casting aside of the locomotives on the New York elevated railways and the substitution of electric for steam locomotives at the New York terminals of the New Haven and New York Central Roads.

The heavy power lines at the Grand Central terminal are big users of copper, and this is only the beginning of the era of steam road electrification. It will not be long before all trains running out of New York to Boston, Albany and Philadelphia will be driven by electricity, and then will follow the electrification of other zones of congested steam traffic.

The copper mines of the world confidently look forward to the electrification of the steam roads to give a great impetus to copper mining in the course of the next few years. The consumption of copper

in electrifying the railroads will be enormous, for the metal will be used in making "dynamos" and motors, as well as in stringing the heavy conductors. There's a ton of copper in the motors of every big electric car.

With the spectacular harnessing of Falls of Niagara, started another revolution. A few years ago the ordinary waterfall away from manufacturing towns was appreciated only by the artist and the nature lover. There was occasionally to be found beside these falls picturesque ruins of abandoned sawmills, long since superceded by steam-driven mills, and the big overshot wooden wheels were reminders of the wonders of the age of steam. But this is the age of electricity. Water power has come back to its own. Nearly all the water powers in the East, and many in the West have been acquired by private capital, for immediate use, or as a speculation until they are needed.

Water power can now be economically transformed into electric power and carried hundreds of miles away on copper wires to drive machinery, light towns, and run electric cars. This development of electrical engineering in the past ten years has been as rapid as it has been amazing. But the revolution has only begun. Mighty cataracts in the heart of Africa have been harnessed to drive machinery of mines many miles away over the mountains. In Mexico and South America where waterfalls have been neglected since the world began, American engineers are installing big power plants, and stringing the copper conductors through virgin forests, and across mountains, to mines and towns, sometimes two hundred miles away. One of the biggest power dams in the world has been constructed on the upper waters of our own Hudson, and the electrical power is carried mile after mile up the beautiful Mohawk Valley to light the streets, propel the trolleys, and run the mills of the towns on the old Indian trail.

The mountain torrents of the Sierra Nevadas, the Rockies, and the Cascades, are being harnessed to electric dynamos, and electricity is transforming the West. Where twenty years ago an electric power station was a curiosity to-day more than a tenth of all power generated in the country is carried by copper wires. This progress has been possible because of the ability of the electrical engineer to carry 50,000 or 100,000 horse power on a copper conductor 300 miles with scarcely any loss. Some day it may be cheaper to burn coal at the mines and carry the power away in the form of electricity than to transport the coal. And perhaps we will develop so much water-electric power that we don't need the coal. To carry electric power from generating stations for light, heat and power 200,000 miles of wire are now in use. This wire contains 500,000,000 pounds of copper. The consumption is increasing enormously.

The telephone, the trolley, electric light, and electric power are the big consumers of copper wire—and all these inventions have been developed within the memory of the young man of to-day. The telegraph is becoming yearly a larger user of copper, for copper, though much more costly, is a much better conductor than iron, and lasts longer. On the telegraph poles along the big railroads now may be seen the glistening strands of copper taking the place of the familiar iron wires. Ocean cables use a good bit of copper. The 200,000 miles of cable contain nearly 100,000,000 pounds. The new Philippine cable laid by the Government contains 3,600,000 pounds of copper. Millions of pounds of copper wire are used in minor electric communications, in messenger call systems and fire alarm and burglar alarm systems.

For all these uses of copper wire in carrying electricity we are now consuming more than 200,000,000 pounds of copper a year. About 150,000,000 pounds of copper are used in the electric industry in other terms than wire. These figures, it is to be noted, represent the top-notch of activity in the electric industry before the panic crippled the mills. Just now consumption is at a reduced rate, but this is only a temporary lull. In the boom we are now entering upon, the electric trades will need 500,000,000 pounds of copper a year. The big consumers of copper in electric manufacturing are the mushroom growth shops at Pittsburgh and Schenectady, founded respectively, by Westinghouse and Edison. They each use more than a million pounds of copper a day when running full time. They account for 120,000,000 pounds of American copper consumption.

Next to the electric industry in copper consumption stands the brass industry. One-quarter of all the copper mined in the country goes to the brass mills in the Naugatuck Valley, Conn. In that valley one company, a combination of the leading rolling mills bought in 1906, upwards of 125,000,000 pounds

of copper. The valley uses not far from 200,000,000 pounds a year—very nearly all the copper that is used in brass rolling in the country. When the industry was founded in that valley a century ago by the Phelpses, Coes and Hungerfords, the chief uses of brass were in making kettles and buttons. It uses as much copper in a month as the whole world produced when the Yankees began building rolling mills.

Varied are the uses of brass. There is the Yankee clockmaker. He is a big buyer of brass. One mill in the Naugatuck Valley stamps out a hundred thousand brass watch dials a day. Nearly all the works of clocks and watches are made of brass. The engineering trades consume huge amounts of brass in building engines, boilers, machines, and shops. Millions of pounds of brass are now going into motor cars and boats. Millions more are used in munitions of war. Cartridge cases for war and sport are a big item in the copper industry, and when war begins anywhere in the world, the copper mines look for trade. One Connecticut factory uses 12,000 pounds of copper daily in making eyelets, balls, etc., for shoes. Hundreds of tons of copper go into the metal tips on lead pencils. One talcum manufacturer uses 6,000,000 brass cans a year. A few thousand tons of copper are used every year by tinmakers. Brass, copper, or bronze valves, faucets, boiler tubes, roofs, brewing kettles, sugar pans, gates, doors, locks, electroliers, beds, lamps, scientific instruments—an endless variety of articles of commerce consume the great copper output.

From the remotest days of antiquity copper has been used in coins. Copper has at times been a standard of value, as gold is now, but now it is often "token" money. Our bronze cent coin contains only a fraction of a cent's worth of metal. The Government uses upwards of 800,000 pounds of copper a year in coinage. The slot machines are big consumers of copper. The guess is made that in England alone \$5,000,000 in copper pennies is constantly locked up in these machines. Our Government has had to increase its copper coinage to keep pace with the appetite of penny-in-the-slot machines.

But China is the big buyer of copper for coinage. Four years ago shipload after shipload of copper left the port of New York for China, and the world was mystified by this sudden demand from the Orient. All sorts of queer stories got afloat. One story persistently circulated here and in Europe, was that a crowd of millionaire speculators was attempting to raise the price of copper by shipping it off to China, and cable news came from the Orient that mountains of American Copper were piling up in the interior. In three years 100,000,000 pounds of copper were actually shipped to China, although some people believed it was nearer 300,000,000 pounds. A good many million pounds came back from China in the boom copper market two years ago, but the bulk of the enormous shipments remained here.

What did the Chinese do with all this copper? Its a funny story. Some of the Chinese provincial officials got the get-rich-quick fever from America, and concluded they couldn't get rich any easier than by buying American Copper around 13 cents a pound and coining it into "token" money—just as the free silverites wanted to coin their millions of mined silver every year into twice as many millions of dollars' worth of token "dollars." The Governors of the mints of Tien Tsin, Wuchang, Canton, and Foochow bought 30,000,000 pounds of copper in 1904, and coined it into 372,000,000 ten-cash pieces and 4,000,000 twenty-cash pieces.

But the Chinese money makers killed the goose that laid the golden egg. They tried to make millions of dollars over night, and were buried under their own copper deluge. In 1905, China bought 70,000,000 pounds of copper from us, and the next year only 50,000. When copper went up to 20 and 25 cents a pound two years ago, there was a good profit in reshipping the Chinese purchases back here for resale.

From out of the shafts of our copper mines more ore is raised now every twenty-four hours than was mined in a whole year in the early 50's.

Without copper we would have no telephones, Broadway would be lighted by gas, and we would still be riding on horse cars.

Honduras: The New Eldorado

Honduras is the third largest of the five Republics of Central America.

It is the second Republic South of Mexico.

It lies between the Golden Caribbean—on the East Salvador and the blue Pacific on the West; to the South is the Republic of Nicaragua, and to the North, the Bay of Honduras and Guatemala.

It has a sea coast of more than 400 miles, and an area of 46,250 square miles—equal to that of Pennsylvania and Rhode Island, or about the size of Ohio; with a population estimated at 745,000, or a little over 16 persons to the square mile. Its area somewhat exceeds that of Louisiana or Tennessee, and almost equals that of Alabama or Georgia.

Honduras is nearer to Washington than Colorado.

It is 700 miles nearer Chicago than San Francisco.

It is 1600 miles nearer New York City than California, and the Pacific Coast points.

It is nearer New Orleans than Cincinnati.

Its mineral wealth—wealth absolutely virgin and untouched—is probably greater than that contained in all the states East of the Mississippi, or any three states West of the same.

During the Spanish occupation of Honduras, this country produced in Gold alone, over \$300,000,000.

Does the reader realize what this enormous production means, from this comparatively small territory?

It is nearly as large as the present Gold holdings of India, Japan, Canada and Brazil combined.

It is nearly three times as large as the present Gold holdings of Turkey.

It is far in excess of the present combined Gold holdings of Egypt and Argentina.

It is nearly double the Gold holdings of Australia.

It is equal to the Gold holdings of the enormously wealthy Empire of Austria-Hungary.

It is twice as large as the production of the famous Alaska Placers from 1895 to 1904.

It is twelve times greater than the annual production of the enormously wealthy placers of Siberia.

It is more than the entire Gold production of the United States for the 61 years from 1792 to 1853.

It is 75 per cent of the annual production of all the Gold mines in the world to-day!

These figures give us some idea of the enormous wealth confined in the small area of this sunny Republic to the south of us.

Honduras Before the Spanish Conquest

There are no records extant to show the wealth of Honduras before the Spanish Conquest.

To all intents and purposes, prior to the year 1521, Honduras was a part of the Aztec Empire.

The Aztecs established themselves in Mexico in the Eleventh Century—the Century in which William the Conqueror subjugated England.

Throughout the Republic are found numerous evidences of the existence of this pre-historic race. They had reached an advanced stage of culture and civilization and were acquainted with many of the refinements and luxuries of life, we know from the sculptured stones of Copan..

Hieroglyphics adorning the ruined altars and massive idols of Western Honduras are the only records which are now left.

The Spanish Conquerors were so absorbed in looting Mexico, they found small opportunity to do more than assert a nominal sovereignty over Honduras, and this must account for the fact that so little has come down to us of Honduras before the Spanish Conquest.

The Spanish Conquest of Honduras

On the 14th of August in the year of our Salvation, 1502, Christopher Columbus, the great Genoese navigator, on his fourth and last voyage to the new World discovered what is now known as Cape Honduras.

It is related that after leaving Point Casinas, the great discoverer sailed eastward toward Darian. He encountered many severe storms and was unable to find any anchorage, until he reached the point now known as Cape Gracias-a-Dios, which forms the boundary between Honduras and Guatemala. Such was his feeling of thankfulness and relief, that in a burst of piety, Columbus exclaimed, "Thank God, we have passed those Honduras (deep waters)!"

From this the present Republic of Honduras takes its name.

Columbus founded the town of Truxillo on the Bay of Honduras.

A few years later the country was explored by Pedro de Alvarado and Christobal de Olid, who came in with the Spanish Conquerors, entered Honduras with sword and fire and commenced what is known as the Conquest of Honduras.

Then came Hernando Cortez, the Conqueror of Mexico, and one of the greatest generals the world has ever known.

This indomitable leader marched through the untracked wilderness of Mexico, what is now Guatemala, and from thence he entered into Honduras in the year 1524, from which we date the final Conquest of Honduras and its subjugation to the Spanish Crown.

A chain of fortresses were established by the Spanish conquerors, and then commenced their search for Gold.

The Spanish found practically all Honduras one vast deposit of gems and precious metals.

The opals of Honduras are among the most valuable in the world. The fire-opal of Honduras takes equal rank with that of Hungary.

The cupidity of the Spanish Conquerors was strongly aroused by the sight of the Gold ornaments worn by the Indians who traded with them on the Mosquito coast, now known as the department of Colon.

The district now known as the department of Olancho, most conveniently entered from the port of Truxillo, seems to have been the Mecca of the Spanish adventurers in Central America.

All its rivers and streams flowed over the precious gold-bearing sands that promised untold wealth to the Castilian.

It is commonly believed that the only kind of mining done during the Spanish occupation was that designated as placer mining.

The virgin streams of the north coast offered the most remunerative fields to the Gold-hunter, involving as they did no special outlay of skill, labor, or capital.

The discovery of silver was made some fifty-seven years after the first Spanish invasion, but no attempt was made to open up the mines. The work of Conquest was in hand, and the Gold-bearing streams and surface-veins offered a readier and more profitable venture.

About the beginning of the Seventeenth Century the opening of the silver veins was undertaken. The mountains around what is now Santa Lucia were the scene of these primary operations. The adjoining districts, or minerals, as they were called, of Santa Lucia and San Juan de Cantarranos are designated as the first regular mining camps established in Honduras.

In these mining districts are to be found to-day evidences of the methods of mining employed by the workmen of those early days. These evidences indicate that such natural difficulties as were successfully removed were overcome by mere brute force. No scientific knowledge whatever appears to have been applied to the task; in fact the degree of intelligence which directed these pioneer efforts could not have been great.

From the time when miners were accustomed to split rocks by heating and then suddenly cooling portions of the surface, until a very recent date, Honduras has been as far behind Mexico, in the im-

provement of its mining processes, as Mexico has been behind the United States in this respect.

While it is probable that no country, in proportion to its area, contains so much mineral wealth as Honduras, yet like many another colony it was for a long time over-shadowed by more populous neighbors, continuing to contribute its quota to the wealth of Spain. And this it is known to have done without that encouragement which unquestionably, had it been given, would have brought this region into the front rank of Spain's most valuable possessions.

What Honduras produced under the Conquest will never be known, but the most conservative records place its known production for gold alone, over \$300,000,000.

The history of Honduras from the time of its discovery by Columbus in 1502, until the declaration of its independence in 1821, may be summarized in the statement that it was a period of continued oppression and occasional massacre of the natives by the Spanish settlers. Inhumanity follows inhumanity, until the story of the Conquest and settlement of the country becomes only another record chapter in the record of Spanish adventure on the American continent. The struggle for Gold, and the erection of what was practically a feudal system, all but exterminated the Indian race.

Some idea of its wealth may be gained from Spanish local name and Church Records.

Tegucigalpa is a Spanish corruption of an Indian word signifying "Mountains of Silver"; and the hills around the city have yielded precious metal in such abundance as to well warrant the appellation.

According to official statistical records, kept on file among the archives of the city, the mines of the adjacent territory have yielded immense quantities of gold and silver, and that too under the disadvantages of the crudest systems of mining and processes of reduction.

Indeed it is believed that in no other known region of equal territorial extent are to be found so many veins bearing the precious metals.

And the Spaniard with his crude methods hardly "scratched the surface"!

Seven miles north of Tegucigalpa is the Santa Lucia mine, one of the oldest and in time past one of the most richly productive districts of the whole country.

The amount of wealth received in the form of royalties from this region by the crown of Spain, seems almost fabulous—although the facts are in the records.

Though scarcely a league square, Santa Lucia is known to contain no less than two hundred distinct veins of ore!

An old aqueduct, built by the Spaniards, still furnishes the town with its water-supply for all ordinary purposes.

Twenty miles beyond is the Los Angeles district, where similar conditions exist.

About the same distance to the southwest is the San Antonio mine, with two settlements, one on either side of a ridge containing the ore-body. In both of these *minerals* large quantities of ore are in sight.

The veins of Tegucigalpa vary in width from one yard to ten or twelve yards. The celebrated "blue vein" of Codros runs as high as forty-five to sixty yards in some places.

Within half a league of the town of Yuscaran, there are thirty-five known gold and silver mines.

In the department of Olancho, about as large as the State of Maryland, are streams and alluvial deposits heavily impregnated with placer gold.

In the dry season of the year, considerable quantities of gold are washed from the streams by the Indian women, who by the use of the primitive "Pan System," are accustomed to make their living in this manner, alternately working and idling.

The river bed of Guayape has been famous for its yield of gold-bearing sands, from the landing of Columbus down to the present day.

In the development of the mining industry, there exists no evidence of great undertakings. Wherever the signs of extensive operations appear, they are surrounded by those conditions which make such operations practicable with the simplest of appliances in the hands of the least intelligent of workmen.

The Corpus Christi mine in the department of Choluteca is said to have produced fabulous sums of Gold.

To judge from the official records on file among the state and municipal archives of Honduras, the amount of wealth produced by the mines in years gone by was simply enormous. For example, the

Guayabillas mine alone, on the basis of "the King's fifth," a tribute to the Crown always scrupulously exacted, paid taxes on its yield, from 1813 to 1817, inclusive, a period of five years, of no less than \$400,000. This shows a production for that brief period of not less than two million dollars.

Similar fragments of history might be cited with reference to other mines of this and the neighboring districts.

That the precious metal could not have been exhausted by former workers in the mines is proven beyond the shadow of a doubt. Mining was being carried on in 1820, until the separation from Spain took place. At that time, the laborers of the country were scattered by the Revolution, and later those who engaged in mining operations were utterly ignorant of the principles involved in profitable mining. None of the old mines thus far examined show evidence of having been worked beyond a depth of four hundred feet; nor has any miner been found in the country who knows of any mines showing greater extent of operation than this.

Early Years of Free Honduras

It was in the year 1812 that the struggle for Independence began to take a tangible form.

In that year several insurrections took place in Salvador and Nicaragua.

But the Spaniard was yet a power in the land. He promptly put them down by the simplest of all repressive measures: He executed the rebels.

It was not until Mexico had shaken off the Spanish yoke that Honduras and the other Central American States, succeeded in establishing their own independence.

On the 15th of September, 1821, the Republic of Honduras declared its independence of the Spanish Crown and assumed its position as a free country with the other Central American Republics.

For many years Honduras was closely identified with the other Central American Republics. Indeed, these various Republics, while then constantly at strife with one another, to all intents and purposes formed one State.

The final separation from Spain had been accomplished without difficulty. It was soon followed, however, by conflicts between the several new governments, caused by the efforts of ambitious politicians to attain personal control of the general government.

On October 28, 1838, Honduras finally declared its absolute independence from the other States.

Then succeeded over half a century of crime and barbarity and internal disorder, which disgraced the annals of the Central American Republics.

We may call these—the preliminary years of anarchy of the Republic of Honduras, during which its people were passing from a state of barbarism to one of high civilization.

All of this is now changed.

Honduras—thanks to modern enterprise, foreign capital and American interests—is now established on the rock of National stability.

Railroads are opening up the country and wherever the railroad goes, it sounds the death knell of revolution, because the Government can pour in troops so rapidly so as to quell any incipient revolution.

There are no revolutions in Honduras anymore. There are never likely to be again.

Honduras To-Day

The language of the Republic's Constitution voices the sentiment, feeling, spirit and life of the Honduras of to-day.

The Constitution guarantees to all the inhabitants of Honduras, *whether natives or foreigners*, inviolability of human life, individual safety, liberty, equality, and property.

Honduras is a free, sovereign, and independent Nation. Its sovereignty is essentially vested in the Nation, and the exercise thereof in its representatives.

Firm law is established and all that is required of foreigners in the Republic of Honduras is that they shall be bound from the time of their arrival in the territory of the Republic to obey the laws and respect the authorities.

Foreigners in Honduras enjoy *all* the civil rights of Hondureans. They can acquire *all* kinds of property in the country.

This is not only the voice of the Constitution but it represents the attitude which Honduras consistently takes.

And it is this attitude, founded upon the principles of fairness and justness, that enables Honduras to come to this country and secure capital for its National needs.

It is this attitude, rigidly adhered to in the letter as well as in the spirit, which is causing foreign capital to pour into the Republic to develop its marvellously rich mineral resources.

The Political Divisions of Honduras

The Republic of Honduras is politically divided into sixteen Departments and one Territory, which are again divided into districts.

The administration of the Department is in the hands of a Governor, appointed by the President. Municipal councils are elected by direct vote of the people.

The Departments and their respective capitals, are:

Department of	Capital
Tegucigalpa	Tegucigalpa.
Comayagua	Comayagua.
Cortes	San Pedro Sula.
Santa Barbara	Santa Barbara.
Copan	Santa Rosa.
Gracias	Gracias.
Intibucá	La Esperanza.
La Paz	La Paz.
Valle	Nacaome.
Choluteca	Choluteca.
El Paraíso	Yuscaran.
Olancho	Juticalpa.
Colon	Trujillo.
Yoro	Yoro.
Atlantida	La Ceiba.
Islas de la Bahia	Roatan.

The Territory of Mosquita, although the second largest territorial division, is but sparsely inhabited, and but little explored, being covered with dense, impenetrable forests.

The largest Department is that of Olancho, with about 12,000 square miles.

President	Gen. Miguel R. Davila.
Minister of Foreign Affairs	Dr. Jose Maria Ochoa Velasquez.
Minister of Government, Justice	Dr. Marcos Carias.
Minister of Public Instruction	Dr. Vincente Mejia Colindres.
Minister of War	Gen. Rafael Lopez G.
Minister of the Treasury and Public Credit	Juan E. Paiedes.
Minister de Fomento y Agricultura	Ingeniero Rosendo Contreras.

How Honduras is Developing

Honduras is decidedly on the upward trend.

The history of Honduras for the last ten years has been one of continuous and increasing prosperity in every avenue of trade and profitable products.

The public revenues in the fiscal year 1903-4 were \$3,380,253.21. The expenditures, including the disbursements for account of the public debt, in 1903-4 amounted to \$3,287,349.94.

The public revenues for 1904-5 were \$3,304,362.26, and the expenditures \$3,341,492.80.

The municipal revenue of the Republic in 1903 amounted to 503,730.22 pesos, exclusive of the receipts from the department of Choluteca for the months of January, February, March and April, the receipts of Valle in the months of March and April, those from Comayagua for the months of January, February, March, April and May not having been kept on account of the war.

The expenditures during the same year amounted to 478,773.83 pesos.

In 1904 the receipts amounted to 683,883.63 pesos, and the expenditures to 672,613.25 pesos.

Honduras in 1904, according to the United States Bureau of Statistics, exported to this country, Gold to the value of \$188,252.

The exports of silver for the same time were valued at \$331,627, equivalent to 571,771 fine ounces at 58 cents per ounce.

Expenditures of the Government during 1906-7 amounted to 4,023,349.94 pesos.

The American Consul at Tegucigalpa reports that the gold and silver exports from that State during 1907 amounted to \$260,000, which is considered as the amount produced in that State during that year.

The United States Bureau of Statistics, Department of Commerce and Labor, reports that the amounts of gold and silver bullion and ore imported from Honduras during 1907 was as follows: (Gold, \$258,363; silver, \$530,561 (commercial value), which represents 12,498 ounces, fine, of gold, and 803,880 ounces, fine, of silver, which latter figures are used as the production in the table of the world's production for 1907.

Imports by Honduras in 1907 were valued at \$2,331,517, of which \$1,561,855, or 67.7 per cent, were of United States origin, as compared with 63.6 per cent in 1906, and exports totaled \$2,012,409, of which \$1,807,952, or 89.8 per cent, were destined to the United States, as compared with 87.2 per cent in the preceding year.

General conditions for the year showed a progressive movement, imports for the fiscal year 1907-1908 being \$500,000 in excess of the preceding twelve months, and although government statistics indicated a slight decline in export valuations, shipments to the United States alone figured for nearly \$3,000,000 in the calender year 1908. Works of public improvement were undertaken and commercial treaties entered into in furtherance of trade development.

The population of Honduras is 745,000.

The exports from the United States to Honduras in 1908 amounted to \$1,540,280.

The imports from Honduras to the United States for the same year amounted to \$1,946,838.

The entire estimated imports of Honduras for 1908 were \$2,829,979, while its exports were \$1,834,060.

Honduras exported to the United States, through the port of Mobile alone last year, products to the value of \$679,039. During the same period the United States exported to Honduras, through the same port, merchandise amounting to \$75,570.19.

Import values for the fiscal period ending July 31, 1909, amounted to \$2,829,979; while exports amounted to \$2,012,407.

The receipts of the Republic of Honduras for the fiscal year 1909-10 are estimated at \$4,714,064.92.

Honduras now conducts an external trade with the world of \$7,857,000, of which exports are \$5,564,000 and imports \$2,293,000. The United States' proportion of this trade is valued at \$6,322,000, or much the largest part, of which exports to the United States are \$4,632,000 and imports therefrom \$1,690,000.

Figures do not make very interesting reading, but a country whose revenues have increased in five years 25 per cent, is certainly making a remarkable showing.

The Mining Industry of Honduras

The gold output has been chiefly placer gold.

Every little town and settlement in the interior has its placer miners who work out a few ounces, then dispose of same to merchants.

They wash with bateas, pans and horn spoons, just as their fathers have done before them for generations. The miners hunt up a place that runs \$30 or \$35 and up per yard, sit down there with their batea and a spoon, scoop up the sand and gravel with the spoon, load it on to the batea and average an ounce of gold in two or three days. This ground if it were in the United States would cause the biggest kind of a stampede—and there is lots of it in Honduras.

You can find gold in paying quantities in practically all the rivers and streams on the east side of the mountains.

There are several of the finest dredging propositions in the world to be found in Honduras.

The base mineral resources have not been utilized in the past for want of transportation. There is untold wealth in the minerals of the Republic, which has been waiting only the facilities for shipping the machinery to the mines and the ores to market. This void is now being supplied by the building at this time of the Honduras National Railroad. Within a few months there will be great activity in the mining properties of Honduras, where the great fortunes of the near future lie.

Copper ores occur in nearly every department of this Republic. There are copper mines in the departments of Tegucigalpa and Comayagua. In one district there is a vein up to 14 feet in width, traceable for miles, giving ores assaying 15 to 16 per cent copper.

The placers of this district have, for the most part, been worked only in a crude way by the natives. Now, as powerful American financial interests have taken hold of the railway problem of that country, Honduras will rank among the greatest producers in the world.

There has just been found within two miles from San Pedro Sula a large silver deposit, and at Villa Neuva, 15 miles away, an American company is about to begin operations on a mine lately discovered there—in fact the work of development at both these mines has already commenced.

The New York and Honduras Rosario Company, during the fiscal year of 1907, received from the sale of bullion and concentrates the sum of \$899,048, the net profits being \$122,329. Adding to this the balance brought forward of \$283,987, makes a total of \$1,406,316, and deducting dividends of \$210,000, or 14 per cent for the year, leaves a balance of \$1,196,316.

The bullion production of this Company from 1882 to 1907 has totaled 13,214,463, and the output for 1907 amounted to 923,538 ounces of silver and 11,950 ounces of gold.

The Government of Honduras has recently granted to the New York and Honduras Rosario Mining Company the Escobales mining zone, situated in the district of Tegucigalpa and consisting of 1,000 hectares.

As indicative of the growth of mining in the Comayagua district, it may be stated that the Antagua Gold-Copper Company of New Orleans, organized for operation in the Republic, is developing what promises to be one of the largest Gold-Copper producers in the world.

The Company employs in its mines about 75 men and is now engaged in enlarging its capacity.

This Company should undoubtedly be able to pay its stockholders in the very near future enormous dividends.

It has back of it some of the best known citizens of New Orleans.

Railroad Building

The main railroad is that from Puerto Cortez to Pimienta.

The Vaccaro Brother's Railroad has recently been completed, extending from La Ceiba, on the north coast, a distance of thirty miles to the interior.

A railway in which Ex-Vice-President Charles W. Fairbanks and his brother are largely interested, is now being built from Truxillo to Tegucigalpa, the capital of Honduras; with a branch line from Yoro to Jutiaca, the capital of the Department of Olancho.

The extension of the Interoceanic line from its present terminus at Puerto Cortes, a distance of 230 miles, is on the point of satisfactory conclusion.

It is reported that a syndicate composed of prominent railroad men and capitalists of New York, has submitted a proposition to the Honduras Government, involving the settlement of the bond issue in connection with the line, and the completion of the road within two years.

Other Important Improvements

Julio Villars proposes to unite the water in the La Tigra and Jutiapa canyons, near Tegucigalpa, for the purpose of bringing it to the latter city for public consumption and in order to generate electricity to be used as motive power and for electric lights in the capital of the Republic.

The plan embraces the delivery of portable water to all the buildings in Tegucigalpa whose owners may desire the water service.

A regular line of steamers plies on the Ulua River for a distance of 125 miles, from its mouth to Progreso, owned and operated by the Monte Vists Steamboat Company. The Aguan, Negro, Patuco, and Segovia are navigated by vessels of light draft for short distances.

The Government is devoting particular attention to the construction of wagon roads and bridges and to the upkeep of those already established, while it has at different times financially assisted the different municipalities in the construction of roads within their own limits.

There are 2,840 miles of telegraph line in the Republic and 188 offices. The telephone companies operate 100 miles of line and 95 stations in the capital and other towns.

The President of the Republic has approved the contract for the erection for the wireless telegraph station in the neighborhood of Tegucigalpa and various substations along the coast of the Republic. The existing telegraph lines have been extended by the Government and a school of instruction in telegraphy for both sexes opened.

The Wealth that is Pouring into Honduras

It has just been reported J. P. Morgan & Co. are about to finance the public debt of the Republic.

J. M. Fairbanks, the nephew of former Vice-President Fairbanks, is heavily interested in the Honduras National Railway.

Our former Vice-President, Charles W. Fairbanks himself, is largely interested in a road now being built there.

The Panama Canal, when it is completed, will result in a tremendous stride of development for Honduras.

Great firms and capitalists, like Fairbanks and Morgan, do not go into a country unless they are sure of results, and their entrance into this field is the best assurance of the value and stability of an investment in Honduras that can be offered.

The Rich San Pedro Sula Deposits

The San Pedro Sula Valley is the garden spot of Honduras. It has an extreme length of some 60 miles, with an uneven width of 5 to 35 miles. It runs north and south, and lies between the Mito Quemado Mountains on the east and the Espírito Santo Range on the west. It is traversed by two large rivers—the Chameilon and the Ulua, the latter navigable for steamers of light draft for 125 miles from its mouth, the former capable of navigation by the expenditure of a very little money.

A comparatively small portion of this beautiful valley is under cultivation. Most of it consists of alluvial land.

The bulk of the American population is scattered in this valley. The completed portion of the Interoceanic Railroad runs through this valley, giving an outlet to the mines located here.

San Pedro Sula, a little city of 10,000 inhabitants, is located in the heart of this valley. It is the principal commercial city of the Republic, though not the first in size. Here are the large general merchandise stores, transport by mules to the interior towns and cities, and the receiving stations for native products. The American colony is strong here. English is freely spoken. The general offices of most of the American companies operating within a radius of four days' ride by mules are located at this point. Living is cheap. Table board can be had at the American hotel, permanent rates at about \$20 per month United States Currency; transient rates, including room, \$1.25 to \$1.75 per day. Houses of 5 rooms and bath bring \$12.50 to \$15 per month.

There is plenty of venison, wild game, good beef, poultry, and an endless variety of vegetables and fruits.

The streams are full of fish.

A family can live here on about one-fourth of the cost in the larger American cities.

Labor on the fincas, 75 cents per day; house servants, \$7.50 to \$10 per month to cook and wash.

The maximum capacity of the sawmills in this vicinity is 15,000 feet per day. This is the output of six sawmills.

A modern sawmill of 10,000 to 25,000 feet capacity can keep busy in this valley the year round.

This part of the country is opening up rapidly. An electric light and power plant is about being installed at San Pedro Sula. There is much activity in timber and mining. In the mining line every boat is bringing prospectors.

In Conclusion

An investment in a Honduras mine offers such opportunity to capital as can be found nowhere else.

The country in natural wealth exceeds that of any other of equal size on the face of the globe. The security offered is of the highest class and the returns of the largest.

We close this book with a quotation from Hon. John Barrett, Director of the International Bureau of American Republics:

"Without unwarranted enthusiasm, let me point out to you my confident belief that the next ten years will be a Latin-American decade—that all the world will be then studying and watching Latin-America as it now does Japan and the Orient, and that a material, economic, intellectual and political advancement will be witnessed in Latin-America which will rival what has been accomplished in the United States. Were it not for the lamentable ignorance which prevails throughout the United States in regard to the peoples, institutions, resources and governments of this section of America, this statement would not seem in the least surprising. Those of us who have traveled from Cuba to Chile and from Brazil to Bolivia are keenly aware that this great onward movement has already begun and that Latin-America has entered upon a new era of splendid activity and world-wide influence."

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